



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023, 9:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING
1111 MARLKRESS ROAD, SUITE 101, CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003**

Name	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE							
	Organization	Trustee Member	25-Jan-23	22-Feb-23	26-Apr-23	28-Jun-23	23-Aug-23	25-Oct-23
Verney, Matthew (CHAIR)	Truist Bank	X						
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission		X		X	X		
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission			X		X	X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division							X
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden		X			X		
Canning, Shannon	Wawa						X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Davis, Rodney	Turner Construction						X	
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X		X	X	X	X	
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School		X					
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X	X	X	X	X	
Jenkins, Marcell	Winslow Township High School							X
Leary, Ashley	Juvenile Justice Hub							X
Ludizaca, Raul	NJDOL		X			X	X	X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.		X	X	X	X		
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop		X	X				
McGough, Jake	YMCA		X	X	X		X	X
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop		X	X	X	X	X	X
Robbins, Matt	Wawa						X	
Rosado, Joeliza	Truist Bank							X
Roth-Gutman, Jill (VICE CHAIR)	Roth-Gutman Law, LLC		X	X	X	X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X	X	X	X	
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop		X	X	X	X		X
Soto, Lillian	Juvenile Justice Hub							X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School							
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X	X	X
Wemple, Anita	CPAC		X	X				
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB			X		X	X	
Henderson, Bridget	WDB		X	X		X		
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X		X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB							

Welcome

Jill Roth-Gutman, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 am. The meeting started with introductions for all attendees. Jill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Lauren Hill, seconded by Lori Godorov. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for August 23, 2023 were approved.

Committee Goals

Jill asked for an update on the current goals for the 2023-2024 year. She mentioned the three goals discussed in the last meeting: a day of service for youth to volunteer, a youth-focused job fair, and a youth sub-committee.

• **Volunteer Opportunities**

Debra Vaughn compiled lists of volunteer opportunities in Camden County. Members of the committee asked if the lists were up to date. Debra said she would update any of the list items

sent to the committee.

- Lori Godorov suggested researching volunteer opportunities specifically for youth under 18, and if those opportunities can be used as a summer internship. Jill added that youth with volunteer experience will make them more appealing for future employment. Alex Levitt will upload a finalized version onto the WDB website and Facebook once it's completed.

- **Youth Job Fair**

Jill continued the discussion of setting a date for a youth job fair. Alex explained how the previous youth job fair had operated in Clementon, NJ.

- Marcell Jenkins of Winslow Township High School commented that a job fair addressing summer employment opportunities should be scheduled for April-May from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- The committee agreed on a tentative plan of a May job fair.

- **Youth Sub-Committee (Focus Group)**

The sub-committee gave an update on the youth voice focus groups.

- Lori suggested the two weeks after Thanksgiving as the ideal timeframe for the focus group to meet.
- There will be a follow-up to confirm that the funds that Rosy Arroyo previously offered are still available to provide a stipend for the focus group participants.
- The Work Group can be the venue for the focus group to meet.
- The final stages for the sub-committee are to establish an additional facilitator, create a flyer for the focus group, and to confirm the event date.
- The focus group of 15 participants will consist of in-school youth, out-of-school youth, youth on probation, and youth in the foster care system.

- **Restorative & Transformative Justice HUB w/ Ashley Leary and Lillian Soto**

- Ashley Leary and Lillian Soto of the Restorative and Transformative Justice HUB spoke about their two-year pilot program, which is focused on restorative and transformative justice practices and working with Camden City residents from ages 10 through 26. The HUB will provide local resources in a centralized location to address transportation barriers of Camden City residents.
- The HUB is required to provide 7-8 local resources for youth and young adults. Within those requirements are collaborations with faith-based organizations, grassroots organizations, and community based for-profit organizations. All of these entities will be required to offer on-site, direct support for those in need. While these services are open to all city youth, the HUB is heavily focused on justice impacted youth and young adults, in an effort to keep them out of the juvenile justice system. It will also assist youth exiting Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) facilities by helping them reintegrate into the community. The Restorative and Transformative Justice HUB will tentatively open at the end of November at the Wiggins Elementary School on Mt. Vernon Ave. in Camden.
- A goal for the Restorative Justice practices for the HUB is to have open dialogue or "peace circles" throughout different sections of the city. These groups would bring together community leaders, individuals who have been harmed, and individuals that



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caused harm. They would discuss the circumstances that led to where they are today, why their situations happened, and how to heal and move past the resulting trauma. The project is meant to be youth-led and with youth input in all aspects of the HUB, in an effort to limit police involvement and to handle matters less punitively. The youth at the HUB would also be trained to run their own “peace circles.” They will receive stipends and a certificate for completing their training.

- The committee suggested organizations that the HUB could partner with to assist in any further needs, including Law Guardian and The Office of Parental Representation.

- **WIOA Reporting/One-Stop Update – Jyi Peterson**

- A new cohort for the Youth Work Experience starts on Monday, October 30th. The previous cohort had 17 scheduled participants, and six in attendance at the orientation.
- Jyi will coordinate a meeting with Ashley and Laurie McGuire and Nidia Sinclair from the One-Stop.
- Moving forward, Jyi plans to open the Youth Work Experience up for more employers to participate as worksites. He will reach out to more non-profit organizations to utilize the 25% in-school funding due to youth barriers or nontraditional school settings. His goal is to expand the Youth One-Stop services and to work closer with partners to improve efficiency.
- Jyi explained that the Youth Work Experience is for youth ages 16-24 years old. Participants in the program participate for a total of 20 hours per week (five days a week, four hours per day). The process includes an orientation about the One-Stop’s services and the services provided by the Board of Social Services. After the orientation, a basic skills assessment is conducted. Once assessed, the cohort participates in a week of professional development on topics such as financial literacy and entrepreneurship. The process concludes with an Individual Service Strategy (ISS) assessment to vet which participants are ready for the program. Jyi will email materials about the program to committee members upon request.
- The Youth One-Stop is in the process of training new staff members.

Committee Updates:

- Alex Levitt, Committee Coordinator, Camden County Workforce Development Board
 - Alex announced his resignation from the Workforce Development Board effective November 22nd.

Adjournment

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley and seconded by Frank Cirii. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 9:00 am via Zoom.



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The upcoming Quarterly Board Meeting will be in person at Camden County College/Blackwood Campus on December 13, 2023, at 9:30 am.

Submitted by:

Alex Levitt

Committee Coordinator